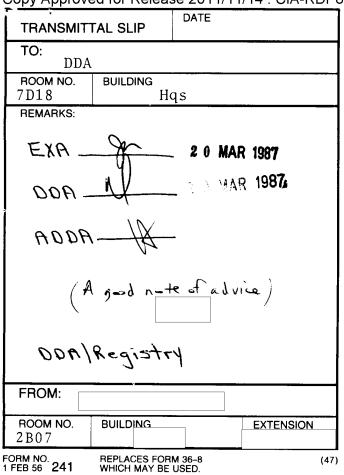
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OC-0154-87 13 March 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DDA Representative to Scattergood-Thorne

Working Group

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FROM:

Chief of Operations, OC

SUBJECT:

Scattergood-Thorne Property

- l. I am not writing to you and your Group on behalf of OC, but rather to share with the Group my recollections and experiences as Chief of the New Building Project Office, OL. It is my hope that I may say something that is of help to the Group in reaching final recommendations on disposition of the subject property.
- 2. It was my role to be the "Bridge" between Agency management and the local community during the planning phase of the New Building. In that position, I found that there was a desire within the Agency to be insular when dealing with building plans. In the particular instance of decisions regarding development of the Agency Compound, there was the often stated rationale that what we do on Federal Property is "our business". On the other side of the issue was the local community that was quick to remind me that high school civics taught us that Government is here to serve the people, not to step on them and their values.
- 3. To ensure that the rights of both are protected, there is a whole bureaucracy that few Agency employees are exposed to, e.g., State and County Government, elected officials, the National Capital Planning Commission. Whatever we may propose to build on the Headquarters Compound in the isolation of our secure conference rooms will ultimately have to stand the light of day in the public process.
- 4. The simple planning philosophy we applied was: if the local community cannot see it, smell it, hear it, or otherwise sense it, then there will be no opposition to the proposal. If you review the original public record of the New Building Plans,

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you will find that this is the case. All on-site development was carefully placed and buffered by landscaping to eliminate potential opposition from neighboring civic associations. The one impact we could not hide was traffic and that became the single threat to the Program.

- 5. With regard to the Scattergood-Thorne property, the master plan we submitted considered these factors. It was an attempt to show beneficial use by the Agency in ways acceptable to the public. The key consideration then and, I submit, now is to select uses for the land that will not require adding more cars to the Compound. The State and local governments will not let the Agency renege on traffic commitments already made and the elected officials will not be allowed to stand silently by if citizens sense the Agency is breaking faith.
- 6. The second important consideration is visibility. The surrounding communities will strongly oppose anything that intrudes on their perception of the area as "rural". We may agree that the area is far from "rural", but the political reality is that the local citizens will fight to maintain their perception. So long as plans include provision of a green buffer between the Agency and the community, there will be little opposition.
- The last consideration I offer is for the main residence on the property. To most of us this seems just one more old house. However, I learned in my dealings with the public that this is much more to them. It is "Margaret Scattergood's home". Take the time to research the Scattergood story and you will find a very active citizen, active politically, respected and revered by local officials for her activism and idealism. The media enjoyed contrasting her Quaker ideals with the popular "rogue elephant" perception of her Agency neighbor. I was put on notice then that "sacrilege" of this "historic" residence would give us notoriety and I believe those emotions may be deeper now that she is gone. It is a simple matter to find a beneficial use for the residence and I strongly urge you to do so. It is one small gesture of sensitivity that will be paid back many times in trust and goodwill from the citizens.

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8. This is simply an attempt to share with you my experiences and knowledge regarding the property you are dealing with. It is not an attempt to defend the master plan we originally devised. My point is that it is not sufficient just to be a good employee of CIA to deal with these issues. You must be an equally good citizen.

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cc: DDA D/OL

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